

only Maryland Yellowthroat I have found near Camden during three winters of field work there. In 1904 the first of the season was seen on March 14. In 1905 the first was seen on March 20.

On January 25, 1906, I flushed a male Bachman's Finch (*Peucaea æstivalis bachmani*) in a small grassy field, about thirty yards from a mixed wood of pine and oak, near Camden, and secured it. This also is the first winter example of its kind which I have found near Camden, and it has also been sent to the United States National Museum. On February 23, 1906, I secured another male specimen in a briar thicket bordering a ditch in an open field, my attention having been attracted to it by its call note. It is possible that this February bird should be considered a spring arrival, since spring begins in South Carolina in February.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

**The Proper Generic Name for the Nightingale.**—Since the propriety of our change of the generic name of the Nightingale from *Aëdon* to *Luscinia* (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XXVIII, 1905, p. 895) has been recently questioned (Sclater, Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, XVI, December, 1905, pp. 39–41), it may be well to set forth in more detail than before was thought necessary the reason for this action. The generic names *Aëdon* Forster (Synopt. Cat. Brit. Birds, 1817, p. 53) and *Luscinia* Forster (*ibid.*, p. 14) are of identical applicability, both being without diagnosis, and having for type the same species — *Luscinia megarhynchos* Brehm. As *Luscinia* occurs thus some 39 pages anterior to *Aëdon* it should be adopted. Whether or not Forster intended to credit the name *Luscinia* to Leach makes no difference at all in the necessity for its acceptance, provided it is a valid name, that it is the earliest name for the genus, and that this 'Catalogue' is its first place of publication. Forster, however, did intend it for a new name of his own, as may easily be seen by a careful examination of his introduction and text. In the former he makes the following remarks, italics ours: "That [arrangement] of Latham, and others, founded on the Linnæan system, seems preferable, if we consider the infinite approximations of the genera to each other; and the wholly artificial nature of generic arrangement: while the catalogue of Dr. Leach is certainly more conformable to the differences of the character of Birds, and also to the notions of the Antients. In those few instances where he has appeared to me to have mistaken the old name, *I have ventured to substitute one* which I believe to belong antiently to the bird. So that in the following Catalogue, the large capitals will designate the Linnæan name according to the arrangement now adopted. The small Roman letter will mark the names of the old writers brought to light by Dr. Leach. *Where I have altered them, I have put a ?.*"

The Nightingale is introduced into the succeeding Catalogue (page 14) as follows:

101 SYLVIA LVSCINIA.

*Luscinia Aëdon* ?

*Nightingale, Le Rosignol, Nachtigall, or  
Philomela.*

The mark of interrogation clearly indicates, therefore, Forster's intention to propose *Luscinia aedon* as a new name for the *Sylvia lusciniæ* of Latham, and *Luscinia* as a generic term consequently must date from this place.

The generic name *Philomela* Link (Besch. Natur. Samml. Univers. Rostock, I, 1806, p. 31) which Doctor Sclater (*loc. cit.*, p. 40) has proposed to use for the nightingale is merely a substitute for the *Sylvia* of Bechstein and therefore identical in application, whatever species may have been included. Its author gives this reason for its introduction: "Ich habe den unbequemen Namen Sylvia, welchen Bechstein dieser Gattung gegeben, in *Philomela* verwandelt." The species that Link enumerates under *Philomela* indicate that he had in mind the group called *Sylvia* by Bechstein in the latter's 'Ornithologisches Taschenbuch von und für Deutschland,' 1803, pp. 165-191, which name he apparently thought originated with Bechstein; and consequently the type of *Philomela* Link must be ascertained by determining the type of *Sylvia* Bechstein. Bechstein (*loc. cit.*) divides his heterogeneous group *Sylvia* into three sections, for the first two of which he gives new subgeneric names, leaving the last one as typical *Sylvia*, from which, of course, the type of the whole genus must be selected. These divisions are:

- a. Grasmücken (*Curruca*) [p. 165].
- b. Laubvögel (*Asilus*) [p. 173].
- c. Wurmfräser [p. 177].

The first (*Curruca*) includes the nightingale, but by tautonymy has for its type *Motacilla curruca* Linnæus, from which Bechstein evidently took the name; the type of the second (*Asilus*) is commonly considered to be *Motacilla sibilatrix* Bechstein; and of the third, or typical *Sylvia* (Bechstein), the first species, *Motacilla rubecula* Linnæus, may be fixed as the type. By this arrangement *Motacilla rubecula* Linnæus becomes the type of *Philomela* Link which therefore falls as a synonym of the prior *Erithacus* Cuvier (Leç. Anat. Comp., I, 1800, tab. ii) based on the same species. Since this disposes of the generic name *Philomela*, in so far at least as the nightingale is concerned, the latter must be called *Luscinia* as above shown.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

**Winter Record for the Robin in Hanover, N. H.**—January 24, 1906, following a week's thaw and exceptionally warm weather for the season, two Robins (*Merula migratoria*) appeared in the trees about the college campus. Both seemed to be males, one of them uttering a few song notes. They were not seen again. The presence of Robins in this region in winter is so unusual that their occurrence is worthy of record.—FRANCIS G. BLAKE, *Hanover, N. H.*

**Questionable Records.**—In 'The Auk' for October, 1905, pages 410 and 419, Mr. Arthur T. Wayne published records of two birds from south-